

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00454 211548 Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 COME-00 EB-11 NEA-10 VO-03 SCA-01

RSR-01 /106 W

----- 003250

O 211050 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6414

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0454

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ( T E X T L )

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, US

SUBJECT: LUKANOV VISIT

MOSCOW FOR ARMITAGE

REF: SOFIA 443: STATE 75298

1. BULGARIANS CHOSE ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH AVRAMOV  
FIRST. STRESSDX US CONCERN AT BULGARIAN MEDIA TREATMENT  
OF BEIRUT RAID WAS EXCEPTIONAL  
BECAUSE OF DANGER TO  
AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY FROM EXTREMISTSJM SAID GOB  
SHOULD HAVE PARTICULAR UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR CONCERN  
SINCE US EMB IN SOFIA HEAVILY DAMAGED AND CARS BURNED  
BY ARAB STUDENTS WHEN FALSE REPORTS PUT INTO CIRCULATION  
ABOUT US INVOLVEMENT IN 1967 ARAB- ISRAELI WAR. I TRIED  
AGAIN TO ELICIT EXPRESSION OF GOB REGRET AT OFFENDING  
ARTICLES BUT AVRAMOV ONLY SAID WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE  
BULGARIAN STATEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESS NOT PRINT  
ARTICLES HARMFUL TO RELATIONS. I REPLIED WE DID NOT  
FIND IN GOB ANSWER OF APRIL 20 SUFFICIENT REFLECTION  
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OF OUR CONCERN AND REGRETTED THAT WE FOUND ATMOSPHERE NOT RIGHT FOR SUCCESSFUL LUKANOV VISIT AT PRESENT TIME. ADDED WE DID NOT WANT BILATERAL RELATIONS GO BACKWARD, BUT AHEAD AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PROGRESS IN RELATIONS WOULD BE SUCH LUKANOV VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE AT LATER DATE. AVRAMOV DISAPPOINTED BUT OBVIOUSLY NOT PREPARED YET GIVE GOB REACTION.

2. NEXT SAW LUKANOV. AFTER RECOUNTING HISTORY OF PRESS ARTICLES AND US EFFORTS HAVE THESE STOPPED, SAID I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED EXPRESS REGRETS TO HIM PERSONALLY THAT WE DID NOT FIND ATMOSPHERE RIGHT NOW FOR HIS VISIT, WHICH WE AGREED WOULD HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US FIRMS. WE REGRETTED HE CAUGHT BY EXCESSES OF BULGARIAN PROPAGANDISTS AND FAILURE OF US DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS CONVINCE GOB HOW SERIOUSLY WE VIEW PROPAGATION OF FALSE CHARGES WHICH CAN EASILY SERVE TO INCITE VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS AND THEIR PROPERTY. POINTED OUT WE CONCERNED AT THE BEIRUT COMPLICITY CHARGES BECAUSE OF THIS DANGER AND THAT WE NOT SPEAKING OF THE RUN- OF- THE- MILL ATTACKS ON THE US. LUKANOV REACTED CALMLY AND SAID HIS WIFE WOULD BE PLEASED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE GOING AWAY AGAIN. HOWEVER, HIS TRIP HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PLANNED AND IMPORTANT BUSINESS DEALS WERE TO BE ADVANCED BY TRIP. BUSINESS DID NOT STAND STILL AND HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THESE DEALS WOULD BE AFFECTED.

3. COMMENT: CAUTIOUS AVRAMOV AND LUKANOV REACTION SUGGESTS NEXT GOB MOVE HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED. CLEAR HOWEVER THAT LUKANOV WAS CONSULTED ABOUT STATEMENT AVRAMOV READ APRIL 20.  
HOUSTON

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980126  
**Subject:** LUKANOV VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BU, US  
**To:** EUR  
MOSCOW  
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